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(19) (CA) **APPLICATION FOR CANADIAN PATENT** (12)

(54) Reusable Envelope with Removable Label

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(57) 11 Claims

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REUSABLE ENVELOPE WITH REMOVABLE LABEL

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 An enclosure such as an envelope is made from a
flexible, durable and recyclable material. A recyclable
label is removably attached to the enclosure with an
appropriate adhesive. Printed material on the label by
way of a circulation list and the adhesive between the
label and envelope are recyclable. The label may be
15 removed when the circulation list is full and a new label
attached again to the enclosure.

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REUSABLE ENVELOPE WITH REMOVABLE LABEL

INTRODUCTION

5 This invention relates to an extended life
reusable and recyclable enclosure such as an envelope and,
more particularly, to an extended life reusable and
recyclable envelope of the type generally used in a
commercial and business environment.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

 Large business envelopes of the type in which
documentary material to be circulated to various
15 addressees is inserted and which then are routed to
consignees at various destinations are, of course, well
known in the business environment. A user will insert the
documentation to be circulated into the envelope and
manually write the name of the addressee to whom the
20 documentary material is to be forwarded on the printed
label portion of the envelope. Subsequently, the user
will close the envelope by way of appending a flap to a
releasable and reusable adhesive or, alternatively, by
connecting a string closure. Such envelopes have been
25 known for many years and have performed satisfactorily.

 Such envelopes suffer considerable
disadvantages from an environmental point of view. For
example, when an envelope is torn or otherwise damaged,
30 it is simply discarded thus adding a certain amount of
waste material prematurely to the environment.

 The prior art envelope may also be discarded
when the circulation list on the envelope has been
35 completed even though the envelope itself may well be in
condition for further circulation. When such an envelope

is discarded, the ink printed thereon itself may not be recyclable.

Thus, unnecessary wastage is created with present circulation type envelopes which is desirably avoided.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the invention, there is provided an enclosure made from a durable and reusable flexible material, a label removably attached to said enclosure with an adhesive between said enclosure and said label and a printed material portion on said label.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with the use of drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic isometric view of an envelope with a removable label thereon according to the invention, one corner of the label being removed from the envelope for illustrative purposes; and

Figure 2 is a rear view of the envelope of Figure 1.

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC EMBODIMENT

Referring now to the drawings, an interoffice circulating business type enclosure, conveniently an envelope, is generally illustrated at 10. Such an envelope is intended to be made from a flexible durable, tear resistant, strong and long lasting synthetic and

recyclable material, conveniently a polymeric material such as a high density polyethylene ("HPDE"). It is also conveniently waterproof and/or water resistant. One known material is a flexible fiber laminate sold under the trademark TYVEK. Likewise, the material can be a combination of TYVEK material and/or recycled TYVEK material or other recycled material. The material should have an intended life span of anywhere from seven (7) to ten (10) years under normal usage. The size of the envelope or container is immaterial according to the benefits of the invention but a size which is conveniently 10 x 13 inches is a well known size and is used throughout the office environment.

15 The envelope 10 has a flap 11 connected thereto which folds over the end of the envelope 10 and is connected to the envelope by way of an attachment 15, conveniently string, adhesive or other material.

20 A label 13 is removably connected to the envelope 10. The label is made from a recyclable and reusable material such as wood fibre material without any chemicals or binders detrimental to the environment. The label 13 is removably attached to envelope 10 by way of a gelatinous based substance or a synthetic adhesive 16 also of a recyclable nature. Such an adhesive can be a repositonal adhesive.

30 Any printed matter necessary for the envelope 10, such as a vacant circulation list, is printed on the label 13. Conveniently, the printed material will be a routing list 14 such as is illustrated in Figure 1 and as is well known. The printed material is made from a recyclable ink, conveniently vegetable oil based.

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OPERATION

5 The envelope 10 is circulated to a user whose name has been manually printed on the routing list 14 of label 13. The flap 11 is connected to the envelope 10. As the circulation of the envelope 10 takes place over time, the spaces within the routing list 14 increase until all vacant spaces are full.

10 At this point, the label 13 is removed from the envelope 10 by simply lifting one corner and separating the label 13 from the envelope 10, the adhesive 16 therebetween allowing such removal. The label 13 is then removed and can be recycled as all components, including
15 the adhesive, ink and paper are made from recyclable materials.

A new label 13 together with its attached adhesive is then removably mounted once again to the
20 envelope 10 in a similar position to that of the original label 13. The envelope 10 is circulated as before with the new label 13 attached which again generally fills with the names of subsequent addressees until the label 13 is full whereupon the process of replacing the label 13 on
25 the envelope 10 is again repeated.

In this way, the envelope 10 may be continuously reused for a substantial period of time and the only discarded portion is that of the label 13 itself which
30 can conveniently be recycled because of the materials used for the label 13, the adhesive 16 and the ink used for the printed material on the label.

Many embodiments will readily occur to those
35 skilled in the art to which the invention relates. For example, the envelope 10 can be of many different shapes

and sizes with and without closure flaps. The envelope 10 may also be made from a waterproof or water resistant material. Likewise, while the adhesive on the back of the label 13 is illustrated as completely covering the
5 surface, the adhesive 16 may only be placed in a few locations such as intermittently about the periphery of the label 13.

While a specific embodiment of the invention has
10 therefore been described, such description should be taken as illustrative of the invention only and not as limiting its scope as defined in accordance with the accompanying claims.

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THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

- 5 1. An enclosure made from a durable and reusable
flexible material, a label removably attached to said
enclosure with an adhesive between said enclosure and
said label and a printed material portion on said
label.
- 10 2. An enclosure as in claim 1 wherein said enclosure is
made from a recyclable material.
3. An enclosure as in claim 2 wherein said recyclable
material is a man made fiber.
- 15 4. An enclosure as in claim 3 wherein said recyclable
material is TYVEK.
5. An enclosure as in claim 3 wherein said label and
20 said adhesive are recyclable.
6. An enclosure as in claim 5 wherein said adhesive is a
gelatinous based substance.
- 25 7. An enclosure as in claim 3 wherein said label is made
from a natural fiber material without binders or
chemicals.
8. An enclosure as in claim 1 wherein said printed
30 material portion on said label is a recyclable ink of
vegetable oil base.
9. An enclosure as in claim 2 wherein said recyclable
material is high density polyethylene ("HDPE")
35 material.

10. An enclosure as in claim 2 wherein said recyclable material is a low density polyethylene ("LDPE") material.

5 11. An enclosure are in claim 2 wherein said recyclable material is polyfilm.

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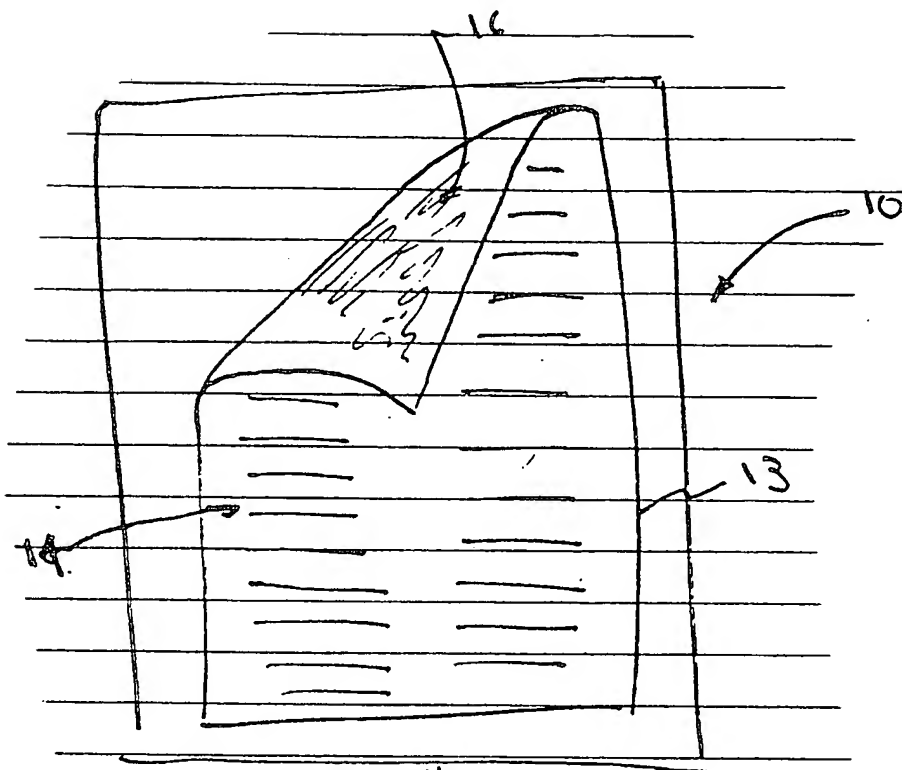


FIGURE 1

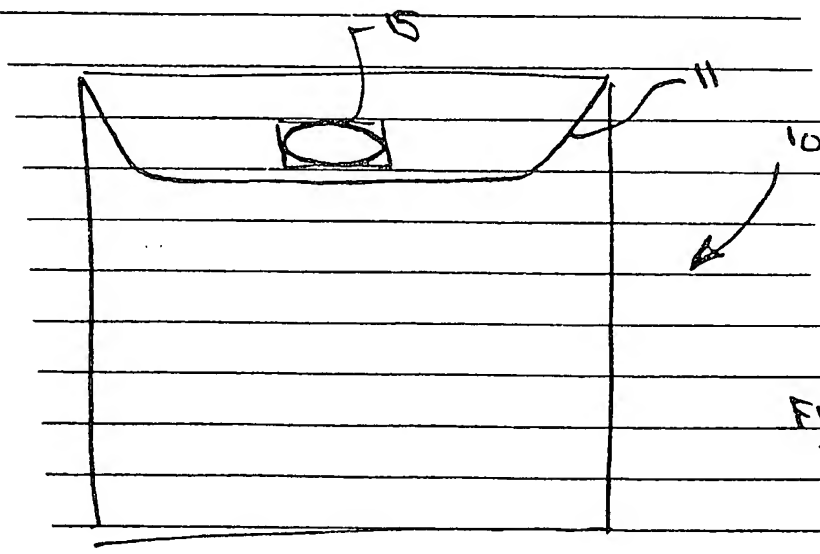


FIGURE 2